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Issue No 139 September 2016

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Farmer wins bronze medal for Team GB



BACK ON THE FARM: Shooting bronze medalist Ed Ling has returned home to his family farm at Nynehead near Taunton after competing in his third Olympic games

A FARMER from Nynehead, near Taunton, has won a bronze medal in this summer's spectacular Olympic games in Rio.

It was the most successful games for Great Britain since 1908 with Team GB finishing second in the medal table with 27 Golds.

Taunton's Ed Ling added to the medal haul with a bronze in the Men's Trap shooting.

This was his third Olympic Games, however, he couldn't hang around in Rio to celebrate his win, as he had to get home to help with the harvest on his family's farm. Speaking about his win, Mr Ling said: "It's been a long time coming."

"The bronze medal match is really tough because you either get a medal or you go home with nothing, so there's a lot of pressure on you. Luckily despite missing my first target I managed to pick myself back up."

"I feel like I had a bit of an edge because I had to shoot-off for the bronze medal

match so I stayed in the moment.

"It's great for shooting, it's another medal and with Steve's (Scott) medal, we are in a good place to grow and improve our sport. We have a great support team behind us thanks to funding from UK Sport and the National Lottery and there is a lot of talent within British Shooting who are more than capable of picking up medals for Team GB in the future."

Mr Ling said he had to leave Rio early to catch up on work at the farm as his dad had been glued to the TV. And that when the harvest is over he will be looking to Tokyo 2020.

"I left Rio early because it was harvest time and I didn't expect dad to have been doing much because he'll have been busy watching me," he said.

"Next step for me will definitely be targeting Tokyo. My younger brother Theo is a shooter, as is my wife Abbey and it'd be a family dream to all go to the Olympics and compete for Team GB together."

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TIC

Heathland bounces back thanks to Biffa Award

THE return of grazing livestock after a gap of many decades has put a rare Mid Devon landscape firmly on the road to recovery.

The change is just one of many made by the charity Devon Wildlife Trust to its Clayhidon Turbarry nature reserve after winning support of more than £34,000 from Biffa Award - a multi-million pound fund which awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK.

Devon Wildlife Trust's Clayhidon Turbarry nature reserve forms part of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Its 13 hectares were once a heathland and open boggy mire used by local people with commoners' rights to cut turves and graze their cattle. However, during the last 100 years fewer and fewer people used the heath causing it to become overgrown. Its open areas of heathland gorse, heather and wildflowers became swamped by scrub and young woodland. The result was that its remaining heathland reptiles and insects were struggling to survive.

Grazing livestock

In 2011 Devon Wildlife Trust took on management of the site. It was then that plans were put in place to reintroduce grazing livestock whose munching would begin to clear Clayhidon Turbarry, restoring it to its former glory. However, one problem remained: the site had no stock proof fences, meaning that it was impossible to leave livestock unattended.

This is where support from Biffa Award made a crucial difference. Devon Wildlife Trust's Ed Hopkinson has overseen the restoration. He said: "Support from Biffa Award has been invaluable. It's helped us install 2,000 metres of fencing around the nature reserve. With this in place we've then been able to reintroduce grazing and begin the regeneration of this heathland and mire."

A year on from the completion of the fencing the charity's herd of Exmoor ponies have been busy grazing and the results of their work are beginning to be seen. Space has been created for the violets, lesser butterfly orchids, adders, grass snakes, dragonflies and damselflies that once flourished at Clayhidon Turbarry.



PICTURED are volunteers clearing scrub at the nature reserve. Photo by Chris Root

The work of the ponies has been matched by the human efforts of volunteers and Devon Wildlife Trust's nature reserve's team. Together they have removed scrub and non-native species such as cherry laurel using hand tools and machinery also supplied by Biffa Award. The result is that open areas of the Clayhidon Turbarry have been reconnected creating flight paths for bats, birds and butterflies.

Public access

But with all the new fencing being put up has this meant people are now excluded from the sight? Ed Hopkinson answer is a resounding, "No!"

He said: "Biffa Award has allowed us to improve public access to the nature reserve. We've made improvements to its footpaths and put in clearer signage to guide visitors. We've also installed a beautiful wooden bench into which are carved images of some of the wonderful wildlife that you can

see here.

"Before this work was done Clayhidon Turbarry was difficult to access, and only visited by the most determined wildlife explorer. Now it's open to many more people. Our message is come and visit this wonderful, recovering heathland haven."

Gillian French, Head of Grants at Biffa Award said: "The team at Devon Wildlife Trust have worked tirelessly to insure that this beautiful corner of the world is back to its former glory. This project highlights how the Landfill Communities Fund can be used to transform landscapes, returning them to nature."

Devon Wildlife Trust's Clayhidon Turbarry nature reserve is open 365 days a year and is free to enter. To find out more about it and the charity's other wildlife havens visit www.devonwildlifetrust.org

Enjoying a bit of Blackdowns Bliss

LOCAL ice cream producers, Otter Valley Ice Cream, is helping the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to celebrate its 25th anniversary through the sale of Blackdown Bliss, an ice cream made especially for the occasion.

The Blackdown Hills, rich in wildlife and heritage, was designated a protected landscape in 1991.

Blackdown Bliss, a blackberry and blueberry-flavoured ice cream, was on sale throughout August from Otter Valley's summerhouse, near Monkton.

Otter Valley Ice Cream has kindly agreed to donate some of the profits from the sale of Blackdown Bliss to the Blackdown Hills Countryside Fund.

The Fund supports local wildlife, heritage and educational projects within the AONB, helping communities to care for their local area.

AONB Manager, Linda Bennett said: "Stunning surroundings and scrumptious ice cream: what a superb summertime duo! I am delighted that Otter Valley Ice Cream, a business so firmly rooted in the Black-

down Hills, is joining us to celebrate our 25 years as a protected landscape."

Otter Valley's summerhouse is not only home to a tasty selection of ice creams and sorbets, it is a great location from which to enjoy one of the many delightful views across the Blackdown Hills AONB – the patchwork of fields and hedgerows leading to Dumbdon Hill, an impressive iron-age hill fort.

Otter Valley Ice Cream director and marketing manager, Rebecca Bond said: "We are delighted to support the Blackdown Hills AONB in celebrating its 25th Anniversary – with custom made ice cream wonderfully named Blackdown Bliss; a delicious medley of Blackberry and Blueberry, of which we will be donating money from each sale towards the Blackdown Hills Countryside Fund."



PICTURED is the Blackdowns Bliss ice cream, produced to celebrate 25 years of the AONB

Pub and chapel to get defibrillators

DEFIBRILLATORS are to be installed by Clayhidon Parish Council outside The Half Moon and Rosemary Lane Chapel in Clayhidon.

The parishes of Clayhidon, Culmstock and Hemyock have agreed a four-year lease with the South West Ambulance

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Oxbridge places for Wellington students

STUDENTS at Wellington School have been celebrating another year of strong A Level results.

The Upper Sixth students exceeded expectations achieving even more A* grades than last year's cohort, with a significant number achieving three or more A* or A grades.

Individual successes include Lydia Buckingham who achieved five A* grades and Kieran Wachsmuth who achieved four A* grades. These impressive results have secured both pupils places at Oxford University, where Lydia will be studying Mathematics at Merton College and Kieran will study Physics at Pembroke College.

They will be joined by William Langdon, who achieved excellent grades to secure his place to read Biological Sciences at New College Oxford, and Catherine Bridges who will study Classics at St John's College Oxford. Charlie Pemberton, who achieved three A* grades, will also be taking up her place at Newnham College, Cambridge to

study Classics. Charlie has also won a Choral Scholarship to Selwyn College Cambridge.

Headmaster, Henry Price said: I am of course delighted at the individual successes of these hard-working and able pupils. They fully deserve their Oxbridge places and will continue to thrive academically. It is striking how well they did on their papers with full marks achieved across several modules, which is a major success. To have five Oxbridge students across a year is a great academic achievement for Wellington School.

"All our pupils deserve praise for their efforts and I am especially pleased with the additional contribution that pupils make to the life of the school beyond their academic achievements.

"As ever, I am very grateful to all the staff that have supported and encouraged our pupils both in and out of the classroom and I wish all our leavers well as they take their next steps beyond Wellington.



Wellington School high flying A Level pupils with Headmaster Henry Price (left) Back row: James Capel, Sam Aird, Kester Griffiths, Alex Steeden, Kieran Wachsmuth. Front row: Lydia Buckingham, Charlie Pemberton, Beth Crockett, Kat Bridges. Foreground: Will Reid

Fete raises £1,200 for Clayhidon church

CLAYHIDON Church Fete raised a record £1,200 towards the cost of repairing the roof of St Andrew's in a triumph for organisers Nicola and Caroline Bendale and their team of helpers.

The "Great Clayhidon Bake-Off" competition produced a new champion – Alice Manfield (pictured), from Rosemary Lane, whose scrumptious Victoria sponge beat all rivals. It was the first time she had entered a competition and she said the success had given her the confidence to make her daughter Holly's wedding cake next year.

Local MP Neil Parish opened the fete and enjoyed an hour in the sunshine chatting to people.

With dog and duck trainer Freddie Parker unable to attend for medical reasons, husband Julian Day took up the challenge of putting on a show, and the duck racing proved highly entertaining.

Other events included a dog show, children's sports, and a classic car display which attracted some beautiful old vehicles, including a 100-year-old open-top Talbot CY, the only one of its kind in England.



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How history has shaped ploughing match competition

HISTORY buffs have been compiling the history of a popular local event and have found some very interesting insights into rural life in the Blackdown Hills during the last 183 years.

Members of the Sidmouth Junction & District Ploughing Association have been delving deep into local records and newspaper archives to find out more about the competition and its role in rural life over the years. The ploughing match has been held on and off during the last 183 years. Organisers of the event were interested to discover how the war years effected the competition, as well as the onset of modern technology and advances in farm machinery.

"We now have a Ferguson T20 class. If you would like to enter, even if you don't have a tractor and plough please contact Phillip Gibbins for more details and an entry form - phillipgibbins21@gmail.com Phone 07779 685858."

This year's ploughing match will be held on Sunday, September 4th in the Blackdown Hills at Combe Raleigh, Honiton, Devon EX14 4SG.

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THE dogs are ready for the off

Terrier racing returns

CROWDS gathered in Yarcombe last month for the villages' annual spectacle and much-loved terrier racing competition.

The event drew in large crowds, with numbers up on previous years, due in part to the fine summer weather.

This was the 42nd terrier racing competition to be held in the village.

There was a full race card of eight races, as well as plenty of stalls, entertainment, food and drink to be had between races and all with a full commentary throughout the evening.

The three judges decisions had not been challenged in the first seven races, but in the eighth, a technical problem resulted in the first three terriers crossing the line before the lure and following a request to the judges, race "eight-and-a-half" was held with the agreement of all dog owners involved.

Due to a mechanical problem it was agreed that the race could be re-run without the lure and was a very interesting way to finish the evening's racing. The eight terriers racing competed by responding to the calls of their owners from just behind the finishing line.



Blackdowns clubs and organisations

Hemyock WI



IN August, members of Hemyock WI had an amazing evening when they visited Yellingham Farm.

Here they met up with Janet East who had come as a speaker to one of the WI meetings, and invited them to her home for a barbecue and sheep dog demonstration.

Despite recent surgery on a foot, Janet was able to show how she worked one of her dogs. The food was delicious and Janet was thanked by the WI president Lyn Taylor.

Pictured are some of the members enjoying food in the barn at Plymtree

Blackdown Hills Transition Group

AS Blackdown Hills Transition Group is about to have its AGM I am reminded that not everybody knows what the group are trying to achieve.

All the current members live and work in the Hills and are committed to working towards a community based response to the challenges posed by oil depletion, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels and climate change.

Unlike Transition Towns (Stroud and Totnes) the group is unable to focus on a defined town as the Hills are made up of many villages with loyal communities. Consequently the group has traditionally seen its role as being a hub for information and support to local communities to help them consider how to be increasingly self-sustaining as is practical in our modern age.

Initiatives over the years have included

A focus on local food production and encouraging communities supporting their local suppliers rather than totally relying on the weekly shop at a large town supermarket chain.

- Encouraging people who are fit and able to grow their own food resources. Hence a focus on annual apple days to have fun and make juice from apples that may have been left to rot and seed swaps at the local farmers markets encouraging passing on local knowledge and recycled seed.

- Encouraging recycling in all its forms

to limit landfill and waste generally.

- Promoting energy efficiency via articles and example, in order to move away from oil and focus on renewable sources of energy production.

- To care for the environment and to look critically at proposals for fracking and new nuclear power station development.

- We are also interested in how individuals can make their own transition looking at their own practice and inner transition in order to come together with others for mutual support and encouragement.

- Working with other groups and inviting people to discuss topical issues of the day relating to transition. The group has hosted election hustings and film events.

We are in the process of revamping our website (blackdownhillstransition.org).

If you are interested in joining the group contact Jim Rogan via email jrogan@bt-internet.com.

Blackdown Hills Transition and Honiton Transition Group also hosts "View and Chew" every third Thursday of the month at the Beehive Centre Dowell Street, Honiton T1LZ. Further information available from Tim Clewer 07701053491 t.clewer@gmail.com

Contact us also via the Website www.blackdownhillstransition.org

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MEMBERS of the congregation and roofers with The Reverend Walsh

THE Reverend Geoffrey Walsh installed a time capsule as roof repair work at St Andrew's Church in Chardstock comes to an end.

The engraved time capsule contains information about the village, St Andrew's and its congregation, services and other interesting information.

For example, within the time capsule are the names of the 344 people/organisations who sponsored roof tiles.

The Friends of St Andrews Church raised more than £1,000 by selling sponsorship for the replacement tiles. The backs of 242 tiles were signed by their sponsors and are now on the roof close to the time capsule.

Church warden Tim Purrett: "However, without a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant through the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, which amounted to £88,300 of the total £122,000 required, the work would not have been able to take place."

"St Andrew's Church are eternally grateful for this grant."



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Hemyock Scouts



SCOUTS at Oare camp

A BARBECUE and games at Longmead, Hemyock, was no doubt for many young people the highlight of the week when Danish and local scouting families joined together for a fun filled day.

Water was the main theme of the games and Scouts from both countries found themselves soaked to the skin as they skidded, were hosed and drenched with water, before moving on to apple bobbing.

The 44th meeting of the two groups from Tonder, Denmark, and Hemyock enjoyed glorious sunshine and were well fed with pork and apple sauce rolls with families supplying their own accompaniments.

Drinks and cake were also available throughout the day.

The well loved Elephant Dance saw young and old being led around the field and a tug of war competition and bouncy castle kept the young people busy

When the Scouts arrived at Hemyock after their joint camp at Oare, they found the Danish flag flying from the church tower to welcome them.

Other activities enjoyed during the second part of the visit included visiting Exeter, paintballing and lazaring, along with a day with host families.

The farewell evening at The Garages was as always full of laughter with the Danish visitors entertaining, presenting gifts and providing Danish drink and nibbles. The evening ended with the traditional Auld Lang Syne.

Bloomin' good show

VISITORS to Wambrook Flower Show enjoyed a fun afternoon, and witnessed fierce competition for trophies.

Held at the ancient tithe barn in Cotley, the event saw tables filled with colourful vegetable, fruit and flower exhibits - and the raffle, tombola and book stalls in the marquee were kept busy.

Chardstock Historical Society took along items of local interest, as did this year's flower show charity recipients, The Blackdown Hills Countryside Fund.

A competition to grow the heaviest crop of potatoes from a single tuber was very popular.

The Cockburn family triumphed with Ed Cockburn being the winning adult with a crop weighing 5lb 14oz.

His daughter Darcie won the children's class with a crop weighing 4lb 7oz.

To help them with their crop, the top three potato growers were presented with brand new potato peelers!



TRIUMPHANT Bob Pettitt Memorial Cup winner David Asquith and Jill Pettitt

Darcie also won The Wambrook Wild Winner class this year. This tasked children with creating a bird feeder from a plastic drinks bottle, and there were some ingenious designs on show.

The Longest Stinging Nettle contest was won by Pippa Eames, who found one that was almost 10 feet tall.

David Asquith was presented with the Bob Pettitt Memorial Cup for achieving the highest number of points in adult classes.

The President's Challenge Shield for highest number of points in children's classes was presented to Darcie Cockburn

Trophy Winners:-

Cotley Inn Cup for Photography - Ann Cooke; John Beviss Challenge Cup for Vegetables - David Asquith; Brooke-Ball Challenge Cup for Fruit & Flowers - Kay Avery; Stocks Challenge Cup for Roses - Sue Eames; Richards Family Cup for Floral Arrangements - Sue Wallace; Lesley

Willey Plate for Preserves - Jean Mussel; Broad Oak Cup for Baking - Sophie Ralph; Larcombe Challenge Cup for Wine & Soft Drink - Tudor Jones; Parslow Cup for Craft - Theresa Braunton; Michael Mussell Memorial Plate for Limerick - Theresa Braunton; Fred Stubbings Rose Bowl for Handwriting - Darcie Cockburn; Wambrook & Bewley Down Centenary Cup for Local Classes - David Asquith; and Pidgeon Challenge Cup for Best Exhibit in Show - Theresa Braunton.



YOUNG TALENT: A collection of children's prizewinners at Wambrook Flower Show



POTATO PEELER PODIUM: Robert Luther (second), Ed Cockburn (first), Graham Randall (third)

Village show to return

A LOCAL village vegetable and produce show is to be resurrected to raise money for Awliscombe primary school

The Awliscombe Primary School PTFA is resurrecting the traditional Veg, Flower and Produce Show to help raise funds for the school.

One of the judges, Rosemary Sprigg, has been giving advice to the PTFA on how to run the show as she has many years experience picked up from her Grandfather, Walter Stamp, who set up the first committee for a village show after he returned from the First World War. It was then called 'The Awliscombe and Buckerell Cottage Garden Society Show'.

It was originally held in a field nearby the Deer Park Hotel for many years until it moved to join the Honiton Show when it was based at the old site on the Honiton to Dunkeswell Road. When the show moved to its current site, the flower show marquee disbanded.

Mrs Sprigg said: "As a child the highlight for me and the other children was the fancy dress competition, baby show and at 4pm the children's sports day; the egg and spoon race, sack race and three-legged race. At 4.30pm came the presentation of prizes and cups. I remember seeing my Grandfather proudly receiving the cups he so deservedly won, year after year. I am still the proud owner of one of them given and presented by John Phillips, President and R.N Bishop, Chairman of the Show. The date on it is 1945."

"My Grandfather kept an amazing garden of vegetables and flowers and loved showing. I spent many a happy hour with him, learning from him and in time too became involved with showing as did my husband, Roger. Even up to the age of 90 he was helping in the garden and still passing on showing tips."

"I am really pleased that the Awliscombe Primary School PTFA is resurrecting the show. It will be on a smaller scale but will still have everything in classes that you would expect from a show."

"I really encourage everyone to enter, have fun, come look and in doing so raise some money for the local school."

Louise Beeken from Awliscombe Primary School said "We are really excited to bring the village show back. It is going to be a fun day."

The event is Saturday, September 10th at Awliscombe Village Hall from 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

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Tens of thousands flock to Honiton Agricultural Show



■ GERALD Burrough and his award-winning Charollais



■ CHRIS Creeper picked up the Supreme Interbred Dairy Champion award

THE 126th Honiton Agricultural Show once again saw tens of thousands of people pour into the showground to enjoy the famous event.

Arguably the best one-day show in the county, this saw the usual animal displays as well as live music, a Young Farmer's tug of war competition and the Jamie Squibb Freestyle FMX Show.

President of the show Mary Martin said: "I have seen the Honiton Show grow into probably the best one day show in the country. The success is due to the dedication of the chairman, secretary and treasurer, various committees,

stewards, judges, sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers who put in so many hours of hard work.

"Farming and the countryside continues to face huge challenges, I hope now as we are leaving the European Union things will improve.

"My chosen charity is Kings House Day Hospice in Honiton who provide nursing support and advice for people living with life-limiting illnesses. I would like to thank the public for coming and sharing this great day with us."

Photos by Lyme Bay Photography



■ JOHN May picked up the top award for Beef



Egg producers feature on BBC's Eat Well for Less

■ FROM left Ken Cottey, Eat well For Less co-presenter Chris Bavin and Deb Cottey

Local free range egg producer Blackdown Hills Westcountry Eggs were recently featured on the ever popular BBC television programme *Eat Well for Less*.

Crew from the programme filmed at the farm to demonstrate how fresh farm eggs make it to the supermarket shelves in super quick time. They also examined just how you can tell eggs are fresh.

All Blackdown Hills Eggs are covered by the Lion Code of Practice which encompasses the entire production chain and incorporates food safety controls above and beyond those outlined in current UK and EU legislation. This included best before dates and higher animal welfare requirements with maximum flock sizes as set out under the RSPCA's welfare standards (applied through RSPCA Assured) for non-cage production. All hens must also be vaccinated against Salmonella.

Just days before the programme aired, the Government announced that all British Lion stamped eggs were now safe

for even the most vulnerable groups of people and that runny eggs were back on the menu some 28 years after the Edwina Curry salmonella scare in 1988.

The farm on the Blackdown Hills has been in the Cottey family for more than 40 years and owner Ken currently runs the farm with his wife Deb and family.

He said: "Our recent investment in a state of the art egg grading and packing centre ensures that we are able to grade and pack all our farm eggs with the minimum of delay to make sure we supply you with the freshest, tastiest eggs

"The programme also showcased our high tech screening equipment and of course our lovely ladies stole the show running freely in and out of their sheds and roaming in our fields.

"This was a great opportunity for us and we are very proud to have been selected to feature in this programme."

Blackdown Hill Westcountry Eggs can be found in supermarkets and stores near you.

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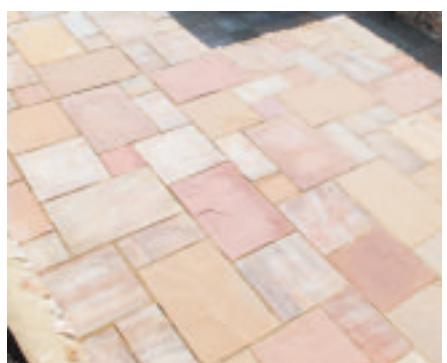


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Many New Ranges
for 2016!

what's on

Pop art pops in to gallery

A NEW Hayward Touring exhibition of screenprints by Eduardo Paolozzi will open at Thelma Hulbert Gallery as part of a national tour.

Sir Eduardo Paolozzi (1924–2005) was one of the pioneers of the pop art movement in the UK. Born in Scotland, Paolozzi was a compulsive collector and a jumbler of icons. He is equally revered for his sculptures and his kaleidoscopic print projects. Paolozzi exhibited worldwide including MOMA - New York, the Venice Biennale and in a major Tate retrospective. His work exists in collections around the world including many public artworks in the UK.

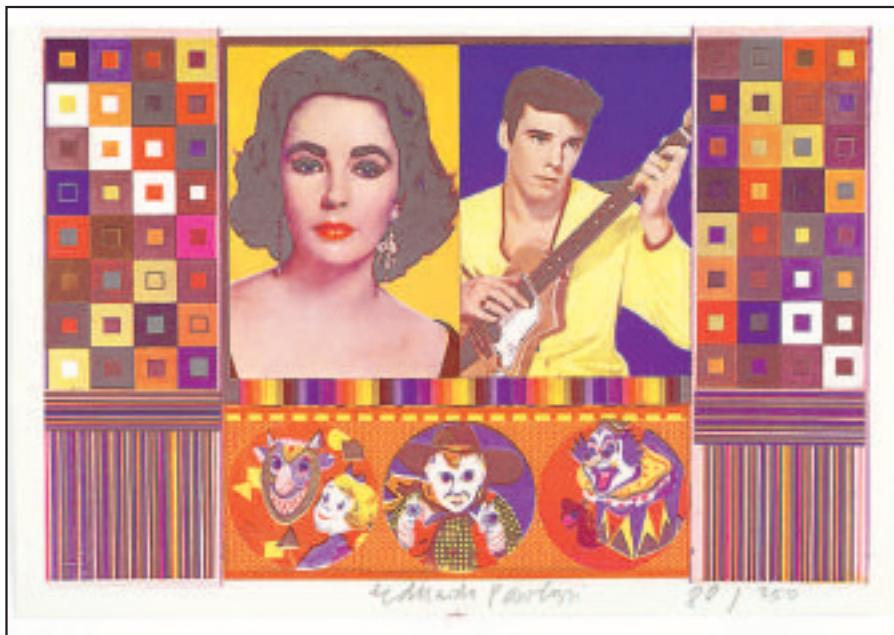
General Dynamic F.U.N features a series of fifty screenprints and photolithographs created between 1965 and 1970.

Hayward Touring is a contemporary art organisation producing exhibitions that tour to galleries, museums and other publicly-funded venues throughout Britain.

Angela Blackwell, THG Curator, commented: "We are thrilled to be showing another Hayward exhibition after the success of Matisse last year. This is an opportunity to highlight this prestigious artist to the local community through the exhibition and activities which will run alongside it."

The exhibition will be at THG from September 10th to October 8th.

For workshops and activities coordinating with this exhibition, visit www.thelmahulbert.com



■ AN example of Eduardo Paolozzi's work

in and around the
Blackdown Hills

Village to host live
music and exhibitions
as part of open day

THE village of Combe St Nicholas, near Chard, will be holding an open day later this month.

There will be many events held on the day for people to enjoy including a flower festival and exhibition in the parish church and singing from a number of local choirs, singers and musicians throughout the day. The church bell tower will be open and a craft fair will be held in the village hall (ring 01460 62081) and a table top sale in the Methodist churchrooms. Children's activities will be held in the school, a scarecrow competition will be held in the village and the Green Dragon pub will be open for meals all day, and will feature live music in the evening.

A local artists studio at 2 Lucas Corner, Frog Lane, (a short walk from the village centre) will also be open as part of Somerset Open Studios.

All venues are free entry.

Combe St Nicholas open day will be held on Saturday, September 17th from 10am to 5pm and beyond.

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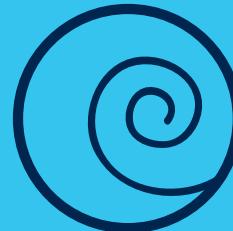
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